**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) Implant for fixing adjacent bone plates, comprising:

an inner abutment element for overlapping a separation gap between the bone plates at an inner side of said bone plates;

an outer abutment element for overlapping the separation gap at an outer side of said bone plates; and

at least one elastically bendable tension band, each of said at least one tension band having a first free end and a second free end, the first and second free ends being located above an outer surface of the outer abutment element, said at least one tension band being guidable through the outer abutment element in a displaceable manner and adapted such that, when a tensile stress is exerted on the at least one tension band, the inner abutment element and the outer abutment element are drawn towards one another; and

one or more hook elements associated with each of the first and second free ends for fixing the at least one tension band relative to the outer abutment element;

wherein:

the one or more hook elements are formed on the outer abutment element;

a height of the one or more hook elements is greater than a height of the at least one tension band;

the at least one tension band is fixable relative to the outer abutment element by penetration of the one or more hook elements into the free ends of the at least one tension band such that, in a fixing position, a hook tip of each of the one or more hook elements penetrates completely through the at least one tension band; and

at least in an area of the at least one tension band where the penetration occurs, a width of the at least one tension band is at least five times greater than the height of the at least one tension band.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously presented) Implant according to claim 1, wherein a width of the at least one tension band is in a region of between 25% and 75% of a width dimension of one of said abutment elements.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Original) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the at least one tension band is held on the inner abutment element.

6. (Original) Implant according to claim 5, wherein the at least one tension band is fastened to the inner abutment element.

7. (Previously presented) Implant according to claim 5, wherein the at least one tension band is passed through the inner abutment element.

8. (Previously presented) Implant according to claim 7, wherein the at least one tension band is held on the inner abutment element by means of a tension band bend.

9. (Previously presented) Implant according to claim 7, wherein the at least one tension band is passed through two spaced-apart openings of the inner abutment element.

10. (Previously presented) Implant according to claim 9, wherein the openings are disposed and designed in such a way that:

a first tension band region and a second tension band region extend through the separation gap and are aligned substantially parallel to each other, and

the tension band bend is formed between the first tension band region and the second tension band region.

11. (Original) Implant according to claim 9, wherein the openings are disposed substantially mirror-symmetrically relative to a center of the inner abutment element.

12. (Previously presented) Implant according to claim 9, wherein a spacing of the openings is less than an eighth of a width dimension of the inner abutment element.

13. (Original) Implant according to claim 9, wherein edges of the openings are rounded off.

14. (Previously presented) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the outer abutment element has one or more openings, through which longitudinal ends of said at least one tension band are passable.

15. (Previously presented) Implant according to claim 14, wherein the one or more openings have a deflection edge for deflecting a tension band, so that a tensile force is exertable upon the tension band transversely of a direction of spacing between the inner abutment element and the outer abutment element.

16. (Original) Implant according to claim 15, wherein the deflection edge is rounded off.

17. (Previously presented) Implant according to claim 14, wherein the one or more openings are disposed and designed in such a way that the at least one tension band is positioned in the separation gap substantially at right angles to the abutment elements.

18. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein a tensile force with a transverse component in a first direction is exertable upon ~~a first tension band~~ the first free end and a tensile force with a transverse component in an opposite direction is exertable upon ~~a second tension band~~ the second free end.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Previously presented) Implant according to claim 1, wherein each of the one or more hook elements have an inclined flank and a steep flank, wherein the steep flank is arranged facing a pulling end of the at least one tension band.

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim [[23]] 1, wherein the one or more hook elements comprise a row of spaced-apart hook elements.

25. (Withdrawn) Implant according to claim 23, wherein the one or more hook elements are disposed on an outer surface of the outer abutment element.

26. (Withdrawn) Implant according to claim 25, wherein the hook tips of the one or more hook elements are directed away from the outer surface of the outer abutment element.

27. (Previously presented) Implant according to claim 23, wherein the one or more hook elements are disposed in an opening of the outer abutment element for the at least one tension band.

28. (Previously presented) Implant according to claim 27, wherein the hook tips of the one or more hook elements are orientated transversely of a direction of spacing between the inner abutment element and the outer abutment element.

29. (Withdrawn) Implant according to claim 1, further comprising a fixation cap for mounting onto the outer abutment element, wherein the at least one tension band is fixable between the outer abutment element and the fixation cap.

30. (Withdrawn) Implant according to claim 29, wherein the fixation cap comprises a bridge element, which bridge element is insertable into the separation gap.

31. (Withdrawn) Implant according to claim 30, wherein the bridge element is insertable into the separation gap between opposite-lying tension band regions.

32. (Withdrawn) Implant according to claim 30, wherein transverse tabs are formed on the bridge element, which transverse tabs are elastically movable relative to the outer abutment element transversely of the direction of spacing between the inner abutment element and the outer abutment element.

33. (Withdrawn) Implant according to claim 29, wherein:

at least one of the fixation cap and the outer abutment element is provided with said one

or more hook elements; and

at least one of the outer abutment element and the fixation cap is provided with corresponding openings for receiving the hook element or elements.